



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011



APR 23 2010

Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposal to List Casey's June Beetle as an Endangered Species with Critical Habitat

Dear Interested Party:

On July 8, 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published in the *Federal Register* a proposal to list Casey's June beetle as endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (Act), and to designate critical habitat. A notice announcing the availability of a draft economic analysis of the areas proposed as critical habitat was published in the *Federal Register* on March 30, 2010.

We understand you may have questions about Casey's June beetle proposed listing and critical habitat. Therefore, we are providing some basic information about what this may or may not mean to you. We have attached a listing and critical habitat fact sheet that may help answer some of your questions.

Casey's June beetle is less than an inch long and has a dusty brown or whitish color, with brown and cream longitudinal stripes on its wing covers and back. The only known population of the species occurs within the Palm Canyon Wash area in the southern part of the City of Palm Springs, California, and on portions of lands belonging to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Currently available data indicates that Casey's June beetle is confined to an area of less than 800 acres (ac) of land located in the southern portion of the City of Palm Springs, California. Areas proposed as critical habitat are on Tribal (343 ac), private (323 ac), and local government lands (111 ac).

Based upon recent, current, and projected development trends, the loss of historically occupied beetle locations, limited beetle distribution, habitat fragmentation, and land-use changes associated with urbanization, Casey's June beetle is in danger of extinction due to destruction, modification, and reduction of its habitat and range. Impacts to and loss of habitat from future development may be the single greatest factor contributing to this species' future conservation status.

When a species is proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Act, the Service must also propose critical habitat. Critical habitat may be designated in specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species that contain the physical and biological features



essential to the species' conservation and which may require special management considerations or protection. The Act generally requires the Service to make a final listing and critical habitat determination within 12 months from when a proposal is published.

We are soliciting comments and information on all aspects of the proposed listing, draft economic analysis, and proposed critical habitat until April 30, 2010. You can submit comments electronically to <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by U.S. mail or hand delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2009-0019; *Division of Policy and Directives Management*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203.

Additional information regarding Casey's June beetle may be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or www.fws.gov/Carlsbad, or by contacting the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at 760-431-9440.

We appreciate your interest in the proposed listing and critical habitat designation of Casey's June beetle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bartel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim A. Bartel
Field Supervisor

Enclosures (2)